

State Board Retreat/Work Session – November 21, 2013

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held a retreat work session on Thursday, November 21, 2013 the Parkview Room at Inn at Canal Square, Lewes, Delaware. The work session began at 9:39 a.m. with the following Board members present: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan, Randall L. Hughes, II, Barbara B. Rutt; and Dr. Terry M. Whittaker. Donna R. Johnson, State Board Executive Director, was also present.

Also joining the State Board was Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education.

Dr. Gray provided an overview of the agenda for the retreat which would include discussion on the Board's strategic plan and what has been accomplished as well as discussion on the legislative agenda.

Ms. Johnson led the Board through an overview of their strategic plan and the Board's accomplishments. There was an initial discussion on what if any revisions should be considered for the strategic plan.

Secretary Murphy joined the Board and provided an update to the State Board on the Department's Strategic Plan and how it relates to Race to the Top, legislative efforts, policy items like the ESEA waiver and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and next steps.

Christopher Ruszkowski, TLEU Chief Officer, provided an update on TLEU initiatives and DPAS II.

The work session adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

State Board Retreat/Work Session – November 22, 2013

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held a retreat work session on Friday, November 22, 2013 in the Parkview Room at Inn at Canal Square, Lewes, Delaware. The work session began at 8:41 a.m. with the following Board members present: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; G. Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt and Dr. Terry M. Whittaker. Donna R. Johnson, State Board Executive Director, was also present.

Also joining the State Board was Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education.

The Board began with an overview of the previous day and the Board was asked to reflect on “what have we done for kids lately?” Ms. Johnson facilitated the Board’s discussion on its legislative and policy agenda and stated that the Board needed to identify core initiatives to drive its 2014 agenda. Mary Kate McLaughlin, the Chief of Staff for the Department of Education was present and participated in the discussions with the Department’s perspective. There was discussion on charter issues such as single gender schools and revisions to the timeline/days/items due for charter renewals. Measures for student growth were discussed as well as school choice. The Board also touched on the Enrollment Preference Task Force, Disciplinary Task Force and Gifted and Talented Task Force. There was also discussion on the importance of Senate Bill 51, the Educator Prep bill, board governance and school financing.

Dr. Constance Lindsay from the TLEU group joined the Board and provided policy changes in development for implementation of the requirements of Senate Bill 51. It was noted that revisions to Regulation 290 would be needed. Dr. Lindsay highlighted the overall process with its focus on data collection/accountability, clinical residency experience, entrance requirements, exit requirements and aligned content standards.

The afternoon session focused on communications and social media. The Board also finalized its strategic plan for 2014-2015. The retreat adjourned at 4:02 p.m.